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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

East Germany

REPORT NO.

COUNTRY

TOPIC Restricted Area in the Western Section of the Wuhlgarten Insane Hospital
and Wuhlheide Cantonment (South of the Berlin-Karlshorst Race-course).

see below

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EVALUATION 30 September to 14 October 1953

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12 November 1953

DATE PREPARED

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 13 October, the restricted area in the western sector of the Wuhlgarten insane hospital in Berlin-Biesdorf was still occupied by about 2,000 men wearing mainly red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and partially black-bordered black epaulets. Between 150 to 200 officers were billeted in private houses west of the Wuhlgarten. About ten low buildings or vehicle storage sheds were completed east of the Wuhlgarten cemetery. Roofs of low buildings also were south of the cemetery. About 50 tanks and armored vehicles and about 15 tank trucks were in the billeting area. Source saw only a limited number of trucks, but believed that still more vehicles were available. Soldiers were engaged in combat and marksmanship training on the training ground. In the area northeast of the billets, about 200 men were working their way forward along the Wuhle River, while about 10 men were constructing a telephone line and soldiers with a radio set were about 500 meters north of the installation. west of the billets towing a field kitchen.

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2. On 30 September, the restricted area in the western section of the Wuhlgarten insane hospital was occupied by 1,500 to 2,000 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mainly with tank insignia. Officers were billeted in the villas west of Gletsower Strasse. Six T-34/85 tanks and about 400 KVPs were at training in the area west of the Wuhlgarten insane hospital. The tanks, whose turrets were closed, practiced passing through narrow openings and driving on two beams. The KVPs who later moved to the former nurses' home received combat training and wore red service color. The tanks later returned to the Wuhlgarten south of the cemetery. Source observed five large wooden vehicle storage sheds under construction and about five SP guns in this area south of the cemetery and believed that still more tanks and vehicles were stored there. Between 40 to 50 vehicles including trucks, tank trucks, jeeps, and radio trucks and 20 to 30 canvas-covered armored vehicles were in the area east of the cemetery and an ammunition depot was directly east of the cemetery. Several buildings were under construction in this area.

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3. On 12 October, the Wuhlheide cantonment south of the Berlin-Karlshorst race-course still quartered enlisted men wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia. Soldiers received combat training in the area of the Wuhlheide. Twelve low wooden buildings were completed on the meadow. There also were two major sheds including one under construction.

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4. On 3 October, the Wuhlheide cantonment south of the Karlshorst race-course still quartered 3,000 to 4,000 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank and artillery insignia, and some with black-bordered black epaulets. From 28 September to 3 October, 50 to 60 men received combat training in the Wuhlheide and, on one day, numerous soldiers constructed a field telephone line. On 3 October, about 1,000 men returned to the billets.

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5. [At] the time of observation, billets opposite the new KVP barracks on Grosserlinier Damm in Johannisthal, were occupied by an estimated 600 men wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets. Source believed that the unit in the billets was previously stationed at the Wuhlheide camp south of the Karlshorst race-course. He frequently observed motor vehicles which belonged to this unit, but noted no training activity.

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6. On 14 October, source noted that five other sheds, about 15 x 50 meters, were under construction on the meadow at the Wuhlheide cantonment south of the Karlshorst race-course, thus raising the number of sheds on the meadow to nine. On 14 October, the billets quartered about 800 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets, partially with tank insignia. Seven model BA-64 armored scout cars and eight six-wheeled trucks were stored near the meadow. No service activity was observed.

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7. On 7 October, the Wuhlheide cantonment south of the Karlshorst race-course was surrounded by a new board fence, 2.30 meters high. Nine wooden storage sheds were under construction on the meadow in the woods. They included one, about 60 x 10 x 8 meters, and eight, 30 to 90 x 20 x 10 meters. Their front sides were closed, while the longitudinal sides were open. Gymnastic equipment and scaling walls were set up in the western section of the new area. The entrance in the northwestern section of the camp was guarded. Between 20 to 25 low buildings were constructed of brick or wood. No service activity was noted.

8. On 9 October, six barn-shaped buildings for tanks and track-laying vehicles were in the Wuhlheide cantonment south of the Karlshorst race-course. Between 30 to 40 vehicles including jeeps, trucks and personnel carriers with enlisted men entered the area on the same day. A local resident said that he saw seven track-laying vehicles with guns in the southeastern section of the area and other track-laying vehicles in the barn-shaped buildings. From 29 September to 8 October, source noted that the billets extended over about 400 meters along Karlshorster Landstrasse and over 500 to 800 meters into the Wuhlheide. On 5 October, about twenty 76-mm field guns were in the billets and an obstacle course with scaling walls was in the adjoining area north of the Hoher Wallgraben.

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9. On 13 October, source noted that the hospital in the road fork formed by Karlshorster Chaussee and Rummelsburger Strasse was occupied by Soviet soldiers and observed a VP sentry in a blue uniform at the entrance to the installation.

10. On 13 October, the board fence, about 2 meters high, around the Wuhlheide cantonment south of the Karlshorst race-course was completed. The fence extended from the Hohen Wallgraben along Karlshorster Chaussee as far as about the hospital and, from there, toward southeast paralleling the Wuhlheide road. On 13 October, rifle fire was heard from the cantonment. [redacted] 25X1
believed that a target range was located there. [redacted] 25X1

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11. On 10 October, the occupation of the Wuhlheide cantonment south of the Karlshorst race-course was still unchanged. Sentries at the installation wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. The number of newly constructed low buildings was raised to eight by 10 October.

12. On 10 October, two tanks were observed returning from the tank training ground west of the Wuhlgarten insane hospital to the billeting area. In the tank training ground the sand pit obstacle which was fairly level was reconditioned. [redacted] 25X1

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1. [redacted] Comment. Prior to mid-October, the restricted area in the western section of the Wuhlgarten insane hospital still quartered units of the 6th Gds Mecz Div, while the Wuhlheide cantonment was still occupied by units of the 7th Gds Mecz Div. [redacted] The numbers of occupants were partially overestimated. From all reports received it is believed that one mechanized regiment and elements of the 93d Tank Regt of the 6th Gds Mecz Div are stationed at the restricted area of Wuhlgarten and one mechanized regiment of the 7th Gds Mecz Div at the Wuhlheide cantonment. The city map indicates no hospital at the southwestern corner of the Wuhlheide cantonment. [redacted] possibly saw a public building which was furnished and equipped by the Soviets as a hospital and is guarded by VPs. 25X1

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2. [redacted] Comment. The KVA barracks mainly include the buildings of former Johannisthal airfield. The MVD units stationed at the Wuhlheide cantonment possibly vacated all their billets and moved to the area of the above-mentioned barracks installation. [redacted] 25X1

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